

## Message Text

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22-11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 DHA-02

IO-10 AF-06 /078 W  
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P R 021002Z JAN 76  
FM AMCONSUL OPORTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 770  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY  
DIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, MILI, PO  
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED ASSAULT ON CUSTOIAS PRISON

REF: OPORTO 437 (NOTAL)

1. AN ATTEMPT BY COMMUNIST CROWD TO FORCE ITS WAY INTO CUSTOIAS PRISON JAN 1 ENDED WITH THREE DEAD AND AT LEAST SIX WOUNDED WHEN PRISON GUARDS REPULSED ASSAULT WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRE.

2. SMALL NUMBER OF LEFTISTS HAD SPENT NEW YEAR'S EVE OUTSIDE PRISON WALLS AS DEMONSTRATION OF SYMPATHY FOR MILITARY AND CIVILIANS DETAINED AFTER NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT. MUCH LARGE GROUP GATHERED IN FRONT OF PRISON DURING JAN 1 AFTERNOON VISITING HOURS IN RESPONSE TO CALL FOR DEMONSTRATION BY ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARY PRISONERS (CAARP-REFTEL PARA 2). GROUP WAS ESTIMATED BY EYEWITNESS AS NUMBERING OVER 2000. IT WAS COMPOSED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF YOUNG LEFTISTS AND CLAMORED FOR RELEASE OF ALL NOV 25 DETAINEES. PRISON GUARDS ONLY ALLOWED ENTRY OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF DETAINEES MOST OF WHOM HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED VISITS BY IMMEDIATE FAMILY.

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3. AT 1700 LOCAL VISITORS BEGAN LEAVING PRISON AND CROWD OUTSIDE

BECAME MORE MILITANT DEMANDING INTER ALIA TO TALK TO CAPT. PAULINO, A PRINCIPAL FIGURE IMPLICATED IN NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT. AS PRISON GATES OPENED TO LET OUT CIVILIAN CAR, CROWD SURGED FORWARD. PRISON GUARDS COMPOSED OF MILITARY TROOPS REPORTEDLY FROM BRAGA AND NATIONAL GUARD (GNR) UNITS SUCCEEDED IN CLOSING GATES LEAVING NUMBER OF GNR SOLDIERS OUTSIDE. CROWD BEGAN PELTING GNR GUARDS WITH STONES AND EYEWITNESS DISTINCTLY HEARD NUMBER OF PISTOL SHOTS. GNR GUARDS FIRED FIRST VOLLEY INTO THE AIR AND THEN INTO THE CROWD WHEN IT CONTINUED TO ADVANCE. MOB IMMEDIATELY DISPERSED.

4. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL SOURCE, THREE MEN WERE DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT HOSPITAL INCLUDING A WEST GERMAN NATIONAL FROM HAMBURG. AMONG THE SIX WOUNDED WERE 3 YEAR OLD MARIA ISABEL METELO AND 70 YEAR OLD MARIA THERESA METELO REPORTEDLY THE DAUGHTER AND MOTHER OF EX-MINISTER ARNAO METELO WHO IS STILL HELD AT CUSTOIAS. NO PRISON GUARDS WERE REPORTEDLY INJURED.

5. COMMENT. THIS BLOODSHED WILL UNDOUBTEDLY UNLEASH COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN OF MILITARY BRUTALITY, PARTICULARLY AGAINST GNR WHICH DID THE SHOOTING. COMMUNISTS WILL CLAIM FASCIST REPRESSION IN FACE OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR IMPRISONED "REVOLUTIONARIES".  
PENNER

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## Message Attributes

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